

LAUNDERS et al.
Application No. 09/623,317
January 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a telecommunications network including:

(a) in response to instructions from a second party remote from a subscriber terminal, pre-programming the network to respond to one or more short dialling codes from the subscriber terminal,

(b) communicating, in the absence of an in-progress call, to the subscriber terminal data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes pre-programmed in step (a); and

(c) subsequently initiating a call from the ~~said~~-subscriber terminal by dialling one of the ~~said~~-short codes.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which step

(b) includes communicating the ~~said~~-data to the subscriber terminal in an off-hook signal.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the ~~said~~-data is communicated to the subscriber terminal as an in-band audio announcement.

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4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, in which the data includes a paid-for advertisement for goods or services accessed by a telephone number corresponding to one of the said short dialling codes.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, further comprising generating a network billing record at a reduced billing rate for calls made from the said subscriber terminal.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the step of pre-programming the network includes programming a number translation platform remote from the subscriber terminal with a plurality of different short dialling code allocations for a plurality of different subscriber terminals.

7. (currently amended) A method of operating a telecommunications network including:

(a) in response to instructions from a second party remote from a subscriber terminal, pre-programming the network to respond to one or more short dialling codes from the subscriber terminal;

(b) communicating, in the absence of an in-progress call, to the subscriber terminal data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes pre-programmed in step (a); and

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(c) subsequently initiating a call from the subscriber terminal by dialling one of the short codes;

the step of pre-programming the network includes programming a number translation platform remote from the subscriber terminal with a plurality of different short dialling code allocations for a plurality of different subscriber terminals; and

A method according to claim 6, including transmitting from a management platform to the number translation platform instructions for determining the allocation of short dialling codes, and transmitting from the management platform to a local exchange the said data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes for a respective subscriber terminal.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, including pre-programming a common group of short dialling codes for a plurality of subscriber terminals in a common geographical region.

9. (currently amended) A method of operating a telecommunications network including:

(a) in response to instructions from a second party remote from a subscriber terminal, pre-programming the network to respond to one or more short dialling codes from the subscriber terminal;

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(b) communicating, in the absence of an in-progress call, to the subscriber terminal data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes pre-programmed in step (a):

(c) subsequently initiating a call from the subscriber terminal by dialling one of the short codes; and A method according to claim 1, including pre-programming different short dialling code allocations for different respective groups of subscribers in different subscriber categories.

10. (original) A method according to claim 1, in which the step of pre-programming the network includes storing data determining the allocation of short codes at a service node located at the edge of the network.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, in which the user first initiates a call to the service node, and the service node answers the said call and communicates to the user the said data identifying the allocation of short codes.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein communicating to the subscriber terminal data in step (b) comprises communicating to a user of a subscriber terminal an off-hook signal which identifies the allocation of the short dialling codes.

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13. (original) A method according to claim 9, in which the off-hook signal comprises an in-band audio announcement.

14. (currently amended) A telecommunications network including:

(a) means responsive to instructions from a second party remote from a subscriber terminal for pre-programming the network to respond to one or more short dialling codes from the subscriber terminal,

(b) means for communicating, in the absence of an in-progress call, to the subscriber terminal data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes pre-programmed by the said means responsive to instructions from a second party; and

(c) means responsive to a short code subsequently selected by the subscriber for connecting the said subscriber to a destination number determined by the said allocation of short dialling codes.

15. (currently amended) A network according to claim 14, in which the said means for communicating are arranged to generate an off-hook signal containing the said data.

16. (previously presented) A method of operating a telecommunications network, the method comprising:

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- (a) in response to instructions from a second party remote from a subscriber terminal, pre-programming the network to respond to one or more short dialling codes from the subscriber terminal;
- (b) communicating to the subscriber terminal a dial tone, the dial tone offering data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes pre-programmed in step (a); and
- (c) subsequently initiating a call from the subscriber terminal by dialling one of the short dialling codes.

17. (previously presented) A telecommunications network comprising:
- (a) means responsive to instructions from a second party remote from a subscriber terminal for pre-programming the network to respond to one or more short dialling codes from the subscriber terminal;
- (b) means for communicating to the subscriber terminal a dial tone, the dial tone offering data identifying the allocation of short dialling codes pre-programmed by the means responsive to instructions from a second party; and
- (c) means responsive to a short code subsequently selected by the subscriber for connecting the subscriber to a destination number determined by the allocation of short dialling codes.